REPORT FOR 1903.

St. Austell,

January, 1904.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

St. Austell Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I lay before you my Annual Report for the past year, and also the several tables filled in according to instructions received from the Local Government Board.

Although no work of magnitude has been accomplished, a good deal of useful work has had your attention from time to time. The year has been exceedingly wet, but the death rate has been very low.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Only two cases were notified to me during the year, one being a case of Scarlet Fever at Fore Street; the origin of which was uncertain ; the other a case of Typhoid Fever at High Cross Street, the origin of which was also uncertain. The latter proved fatal. In both cases every sanitary precaution was taken to prevent the diseases extending. The former house was thoroughly fumigated and disinfected. One of the cases occurred in June and the other in September. It is satisfactory that there were no further cases, and shows that by disinfection, isolation, and properly fumigating the sick rooms, infectious diseases can be prevented from further extending.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Mumps and Chicken Pox were the only two non-notifiable diseases that came under my observation during the summer months. Several cases occurred, but there was no fatality. The children attending the Public School were chiefly affected, but on isolating the cases and preventing them from attending school the diseases gradually lessened, and after the summer holidays I heard of no further cases.

In the commencement of the year there were a few cases of Measles, which did not spread. There was no fatality.

Influenza was also prevalent for a short time in the early part of the year, and caused one death. The cases were not so numerous as in previous years, nor were they so severe.

One case of Diarrhœa occurred in a very young child, and proved fatal.

SANITATION.

The water supply has been satisfactory, sufficient in quantity and wholesome. It has been extended at Gover Lane and Bodmin Road, where about five hundred feet of 3-in. and 2-in. pipes have been laid and several houses connected. The old pipes at Aylmer Place have been replaced by new, and the inhabitants there have now got a satisfactory supply. Drainage has also been improved and extended at Market Street. Where the old pipes leaked, new ones have been substituted. A good many private and public drains were tested, and several nuisances were abated.

Six new houses were erected at Moorland Road by Mr. Layland-Barratt, which will prove a great boon to that locality. This place was at one time the worst part of the town, and I am pleased to see what an improvement there is in that part. Some of the older inhabitants can scarcely realize what a transformation has taken place—dingy little houses replaced by decent dwellings, and the roads considerably widened. I hope, as opportunities occur, the Council will see their way clear to continue this improvement, and make the small piece of land at the other end of Moorland Road, which is simply disgraceful at present, similar to the improved parts.

Several new water closets have been erected, a great many old ones have been renovated, and I am pleased to say that there are no privies or cesspits in the district at present.

In my last report I referred to the tramps that come into the town, and also to the fact that those houses that took them in were not registered. This, I believe, the Council is dealing with at present. It is an important matter, as the tramps come from town to town, and are very liable to bring diseases with them.

Public baths would be a great advantage to the town and people. Your Council some time since contemplated having public baths and another urinal, but I suppose through pressure of work it has been overlooked. Still, I consider they are matters requiring your further consideration.

Some reference has been made to the working men's houses in the district, but what is meant I do not exactly understand. If it is meant that more houses are required, the district must first be enlarged ; if, on the other hand, it is meant that the houses are not fit for occupation, this a very difficult matter to prove. As I know, some houses are old, but can be renovated, which is being constantly done. As to unhealthy areas, there are none that I aware of in the district, and I consider that the houses of working men in St. Austell will compare favourably with those in any town in England. You cannot expect in such a limited space to make a new St. Austell. I need not remind you the idea of workmen's dwellings is not new, as it has been before your Council on several occasions previously, and it was found impracticable to carry out any such scheme. You are not alone in this matter—several Urban Districts have made similar attempts, but have failed.

We have only one slaughter-house in the district, and although it is in a crowded locality there has been no complaint.

The scavenging has been done under your Authority, and although the refuse has to be taken some distance, it has proved satisfactory, and I hope this arrangement will continue for some time, as I am informed there is still plenty of room for refuse.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE DISTRICT.

The enlargement of the district has been under your consideration for some time, and I am pleased to find that it is progressing favourably. I consider it is of paramount importance that the present area should be enlarged. As I have previously reported, it is not practicable to carry out much improvements in the present area.

FAIR PARK.

The Fair Park has also been under your consideration, but I regret no steps as yet have been taken to improve the sanitation of that place, although the Gipsies are not allowed to stay there now. It is not a fit place for cattle to remain in, there being no granite or concrete floor, and in wet weather there is nothing but mud and slush there.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

I am aware that no action has been taken in connection with an Isolation Hospital owing to the smallness of the district. I am glad to think that it would not have been much used during the past year if we had it, but an epidemic may occur at any moment. I hope this matter will not be lost sight of when the district is enlarged.

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There are several matters connected with the health of the district which I hope to bring under your notice during the coming year, and I hope they will receive the same attention from you as formerly.

THE FACTORY ACT.

There is also another matter which has given a great deal of trouble during the past year, and which is likely to cause more in future. I refer to the Workshop and Factory Act. Formerly boys and girls were congregated in a small room to carry out their work, no attention being given to sanitation. Now this Act has come into force the several workshops have to be visited and inspected. Not only have they to be provided with separate water closets, but there must be 250 cubic feet of air space for each person, the room must be properly ventilated so as to prevent all gaseous and noxious vapours, and the floors drained. The floors are generally wood, and most of them are in a fair condition—there was one complained of, which has since been done away with, and a new one substituted.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The Dairies and Cowsheds will also engage our attention during the ensuing year. Although the cowsheds have been improved, the dairies still require a great deal of looking after, the places, in my opinion, not being sufficiently large in many cases. They are generally small and poorly ventilated, and sometimes the room is a portion of the dwellinghouse, and I find that the meat, vegetables, and other eatables are kept in the same place: I need hardly say that there is nothing more likely to taint milk than this.

MORTALITY AND SICKNESS.

I now append the Tables of Mortality, from which you will see that the death rate is very low, considerably less than the average.

Taking Table one, the birth rate has decreased compared with last year, the former being 26·3, the latter 19·4, whilst the death rate is about the same. In 1902 it was 17·06, and last year 17·3.

Taking Table two, the birth rate for the district, omitting the Union, is 17·3, and the death rate 12·8.

Table three was referred to when treating the Notifiable Diseases.

Table four has also been referred to in the treating of the Notifiable and Non-Notifiable Diseases, in which you will see the number of deaths in the town and workhouse arranged under their respective diseases, also the ages of those in whom they occurred.

I now give you the birth and death rates for the past twenty-four years.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1880	33·1	22
1881	26·5	18·1
1882	23·7	25·9
1883	26·2	24·8
1884	30·9	18·7
1885	27·07	27·3
1886	24·2	23·4
1887	25·1	25·9
1888	22·8	18·4
1889	23·4	15·6
1890	19·2	24·6
1891	25·3	22·1
1892	23·8	20·1
1893	26·7	23·8
1894	28·6	20·1
1895	25·02	18·9
1896	23·8	16·6
1897	22·1	16·6
1898	20·9	23·2
1899	27·3	27·03
1900	19·5	22·1
1901	18·5	21·2
1902	26·3	17·06
1903	19·4	17·3

You will see that the birth rate has been, with two exceptions, the lowest for the past twenty-four years. The death rate has been also the lowest, with four exceptions, during the same period.

In conclusion, I should like to add that it is satisfactory to find that the Council gives due consideration to all the different sanitary improvements in the district, and at the same time express my appreciation of the kind and courteous manner in which they have treated whatever I may have laid before them, and I hope the same feeling will continue in the future as in the past. It will be my aim to help to carry out every sanitary improvement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,

M.O.H.

W. B. LUKE, PRINTER, ST. AUSTELL.

REPORT FOR 1903.

St. Austell,
January, 1904.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

ST. AUSTELL

Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my Report for the past year, which, to some extent, is a resumè of the Monthly Reports that you have received from your Inspector and myself during the year. As you are aware, the year has been remarkable for the excessive rainfall, being 50·74 inches against 35·58 in the preceding year. The average rainfall for the past five years being 40·68. You will at once see that the amount of work must have immensely increased, therefore the keeping of the several places in a proper sanitary condition took a great deal of time, still, notwithstanding, the death-rate has been very low,—the lowest since I have been your Health Officer—this being my twenty-fifth Annual Report.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet Fever was in the District nearly the whole of the year, and occurred in all parts. It commenced at Mevagissey, and shortly afterwards appeared at Gorran Haven, where it continued for some time. The sanitary condition of the latter place is nottsatisfactory owing to the difficulty of providing privy accommodation. A few scattered cases occurred at Alviggan and neighbourhood, in the parish of St. Stephens. Later on it was imported into Tywardreath parish by a child who been away on a holiday. The parents, not knowing what she had been suffering from, sent her to school, and the disease therefore quickly spread,—the schools were closed, and is was surprising how rapidly the disease disappeared. Of the thirty-eight cases notified three proved fatal, two at Tywardreath, and one at Gorran Haven.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.— There were seven cases notified, two of which proved fatal. One case occurred at St. Stephens Churchtown; and two others at Bucklers, in St. Austell parish. Three cases occurred at Teague's Gate, Grampound, where the sanitary condition of the house and surroundings was most unsatisfactory, and the drinking water contaminated, and not fit for drinking purposes—this in my opinion was the cause of the disease. This place had immediate attention. The other case occurred at Mevagissey.

ERYSIPELAS.—Fifteen cases were notified, but no deaths occurred. Most of the cases were in old people whose health was impaired, and the cases generally were mild.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Two cases of Typhoid Fever were notified to me—one at Roche, the other at Fowey. The Roche case was imported. At Fowey we could not find anything unsanitary about the house or place—we disinfected and fumigated the house and surroundings, and no further cases have occurred.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.—This disease was imported into Golant and several cases occurred there. A little later on it was imported by a visitor into Fowey where the cases were so numerous in the Infant Department of the Board School that the School was closed. The Church School at Golant was also closed. Both places were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and in some parts a house to house visitation was made. Three deaths occurred, all in the Fowey District.

WHOOPING COUGH.—A few cases of Whooping Cough occurred and caused the deaths of two very young children,—one in Grampound District, and the other in Mevagissey District.

DIARRHŒA.—There were a few cases of Diarrhœa in the St. Austell District, and one case proved fatal in a young child.

INFLUENZA.—Influenza was not so severe as usual and never assumed an epidemic form. There were some cases in the commencement of the year, and four deaths were attributed to it, all in aged people.

You will see that the Mortality from Non-Notifiable Diseases is greater in proportion than from Notifiable Diseases. Some years ago I suggested that Measles should be notifiable, as it is a very fatal disease, when there are complications, in young children.

There is also another disease that has attracted a great deal of attention of late, and a great deal has been written about it, especially as to its Infectious nature. I refer to Phthisis. A great number of Authorities have

adopted it as a Notifiable Disease, and I think it a matter worth your attention when you consider what an awful disease it is, and that Consumptive people expectorate on the causeways and highways—the disease may be easily taken from either place.

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

It may be instructive to give you a table showing the Mortality from Notifiable Diseases. From it you will see the position as regards the health and the sanitary condition of your district.

Year.	No. of cases reported.	Death rate per 1000 inhabitants.		
1890	54	12	rate	·44
1891	193	16	,,	·56
1892	134	8	,,	·28
1893	200	32	,,	1·1
1894	117	23	,,	·84
1895	112	6	,,	·22
1896	153	8	,,	·28
1897	50	6	,,	·22
1898	121	4	,,	·14
1899	216	10	,,	·36
1900	195	10	,,	·36
1901	130	6	,,	·204
1902	97	5	,,	·16
1903	62	5	,,	·16

The last year as you perceive is about the average. If you look at Non-Notifiable Diseases you will at once be able to distinguish the difference in the mortality between them. Measles 3 deaths, Whooping Cough 2, Diarrhœa 1, Influenza 4. Then take Phthisis which has caused no less than 26 deaths during the past year.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

On reviewing the Sanitary Work that has been accomplished during the year I will mention a few of the matters that have engaged the Council's attention, and also some of the work that has been done. As I said at the commencement of this Report, the wet season has entailed considerable extra work, and took up a great portion of your Inspector's time, however, the water-supply has been improved and extended throughout the various Districts. At Mount Charles three hundred and fifty feet of new 3in. mains have been laid. Par Harbour is now supplied by the Council, and the old reservoir has been condemned. At Par Green a new main is being laid, and will be supplied by

the Council's main—this will prove a great boon to the inhabitants of that place. It is intended to make considerable extension here. The delay was caused by the bursting of the old water main belonging to the St. Blazey supply which was found very defective. This supply had to be discontinued for a time, until about two thousand feet of new 3in. main were laid. Fowey is also to have an extra supply from the Council's reservoir at St. Blazey Gate—this work is in hand at present, and when completed there will be about three thousand feet of 3in. main. I hope this will provide the higher level of Fowey with a constant and an abundant supply of drinking water. In my opinion there has been a great waste of water at Fowey, especially on the higher level, and what can one expect when houses are furnished with two baths and two w.c's, and some of the houses have a storage of nine hundred gallons, which appears to last only about forty-eight hours. The flushing system in some parts of Fowey I consider far from satisfactory, and I hope to call the Council's attention to it later on.

The Reservoirs throughout the District have been thoroughly cleansed and flushed, and the Phernissick Adit has also been cleaned and timbered where required. The Trenance Adit has been similarly treated. Stenalees Adit has been cleaned and timbered after great difficulty and trouble.

Knowing the importance of a water supply for Bugle and neighbourhood, and also the difficulty in obtaining a supply in that locality, as there is such a demand for it from the surrounding clayworks, I congratulate you on the difficulties you surmounted, and believe the steps you have taken to be right and proper ones. I am glad to find that the work is progressing satisfactorily, and with as little delay as possible.

At Polgooth the old water mains have been taken up and were found to be filled with a deposit of oxide of iron, a larger main 1¼in. has been substituted, and six hundred feet laid.

The water supply has been extended to Crinnis, a distance of from two to three thousand feet from our nearest supply, and at the same time a new hydrant has been fixed at Three Doors. This hydrant will serve a two-fold purpose, namely, in case of fire, and for blowing out the main. At Charlestown an inch pipe has been laid—two hundred feet of water pipes have been replaced by new.

At Tremena three hundred and twenty-four feet of 3in. mains were laid and two new hydrants fixed.

At Mevagissey about 30 feet of 2in. pipe have been laid from the well to the Town Bridge pump.

The several deep well pumps throughout the district have been inspected: some have been repaired and others replaced by new. The pump at

Prazy, St. Dennis, being in a very bad condition, was reconstructed. Several new pumps have been sunk where new houses have been erected, there being no proper supply within reasonable distance,—as far as possible we have had them collared and properly protected. The new Bye Laws which are now come into force will still further strengthen our hands in this matter.

DRAINAGE.—The Drainage in several places has been improved and extended. At Mount Charles about three hundred feet of 6in. pipes have been laid. At St. Dennis about a hundred feet of 6in. pipes have been laid in connection with the pump. At Roche the drainage has been considerably improved and extended, and about two hundred and fifty feet of 12in. drain pipes laid, and an outfall constructed; this will prove a great boon to the village, but still one thing is necessary, and that is water for flushing and drinking purposes. Some steps ought to be taken in this matter, as the inhabitants object, and put obstacles in the way of any scheme that may be suggested, and the only tangible reason is the cost. After a time a water supply would pay for itself.

At Mevagissey about one hundred and fifty feet of 12in. drain pipes have been laid connecting the Polkirt side with the main drain passing under the Town Bridge. In many places old drains have been replaced and traps have been fixed. The work of reconstructing has been considerable during the year owing to the heavy rainfall. The floods have been great and drains have bursted in many places, especially at Mevagissey, where great havoc was caused. Six feet of water lodged in the streets, and one of the outfalls was completely choked,—a new outlet has since been constructed which will I hope prevent any future flooding. The drainage of Par Leat is also having attention. At St. Dennis four cottages and the public house were drained, and a filthy yard was made clean and wholesome.

I am pleased to find that the cases of overcrowding are getting less. A few cases have been reported during the past year, which have had immediate attention. There are some places in the district that are still overcrowded, owing to the want of proper house accommodation, and I have no doubt as time goes on this will be remedied

All cases of dilapidated houses coming under our notice have been dealt with: some were closed, others renovated and made tenantable as far as possible under the circumstances. Some of the cottages in the District were in a very dilapidated condition, especially in the outlying portions of the district. Some cottages we visited were very dirty, and the inmates not very clean,—they do not appear to understand the value of pure water and pure air. I hope these old cottages will ere long be taken down and new ones built.

During the past year several nuisances have come under our notice and all of them have had attention; some have been reported to the Council, and a great number have been dealt with by oral notices, thus saving you a great deal

of time and trouble. We still favour the earth closet system to having cesspits, which so frequently become nuisances, and on the whole I find the earth system the best. Failing proper water closets (of course we cannot have water closets in a country district) the ordinary cesspit is so likely to contaminate the surroundings, and thereby injure the health of the inhabitants. We had an instance of this at Teague's Gate, where the drinking water became contaminated by the liquid soaking through from a cesspit near by, and I have no doubt that this was the cause of the outbreak of Diphtheria there. Something similar occurred at Trevellick, in St. Ewe Parish, where Diphtheria also occurred. The pump and surroundings were far from satisfactory, and the water was not properly protected. There was a foul drain running beside the said pump, which emptied into a cesspool a few feet from the well. This place had our immediate attention, and the whole surroundings were put into a sanitary condition, and no further cases occurred.

The Pig-stys have given us a great deal of trouble, especially when they are built so near to dwelling houses, and also when close to drinking water. Up to the present we have not had sufficient power to deal with them, but now the Bye-laws are sanctioned we shall be able to deal with them more effectually.

There is a great improvement in the sending of Soapy Water on to the water tables of the highways, but there are some places where the practice still continues, although the inhabitants have been cautioned on several occasions. The worst offenders at present are at St. Blazey Gate, and they look on it as a matter of right, and ask us to bring a drain to them—we will deal with this again later on.

The newly-erected dwelling houses have occupied our attention. Many improvements as to the drainage, ventilation, and regulations relating thereto will now be under your supervision, and although new houses are very necessary in some parts of the district, I hope the Council will adhere strictly to the Bye-laws.

Wherever Infectious or Contagious Diseases occurred, the surroundings were disinfected, and notices were served on the owners to have the places thoroughly cleaned, and when deemed advisable we fumigate the sick rooms. The difficulty still remains to disinfect woollens and other thick, heavy materials without a proper disinfecting chamber. It is very easy to burn them, but some of them are of a very costly nature, and frequently in such articles Microbes are found to propagate.

From the foregoing you will see that the Sanitary work of your district has had close attention, and as far as possible everything has been done to stop the spread of diseases, and to improve the general condition of your district. Some very important and highly essential works are at present in hand, and I

hope there are still more to follow. The Water Supply of the several places has been thoroughly looked after, the reservoirs cleaned, and the adits re-timbered wherever necessary. Two of these were work of great magnitude—I refer to Phernissick and Trenance. The work at present in hand is Stenalees water: the adit has been cleared and timbered for a distance of several hundred feet, and it was a work that required great care and attention, as for a great part of the distance it was completely choked. I am pleased to find that it has been accomplished without any accident. In a very short time the plans will have been before the Local Government Board, and the work will be proceeded with and carried out to your entire satisfaction.

Par Green and Par Harbour water schemes are being carried out, and I have no doubt the neighbourhood will derive benefit therefrom. I am also pleased to say that the extension of water from Tywardreath to Fowey is now being carried out, and this will not only be a boon to Fowey, but also to the several farms through which the supply will pass.

There still remain some places that were mentioned in my last Report that had attention, but are still in abeyance—I refer to Mevagissey drainage. Mr. Fawcett, the Local Government Inspector, has been down and visited the place, and although it was an informal enquiry, he went very minutely into the whole matter, and listened to every one that spoke for or against the drainage of this place. The poverty of Mevagissey was pointed out to Mr. Fawcett, and that appears to be the only objection the inhabitants had to the carrying out of the scheme. I think he has given it due consideration, and what I have said previously that the sewage should be carried out of the harbour I adhere to, and then the other parts might wait for a time. If this is done the Harbour Authorities will then be responsible for any nuisance that may occur in the harbour; and, moreover, it would be the means of making Mevagissey a favourable health resort, and a favourite summer residence; after all, the scenery around Mevagissey cannot easily be surpassed.

Tregonissey, Tregonissey Lane End, Slades, and Charlestown drainage has had your attention. This is a matter of paramount importance. This neighbourhood is increasing in population rapidly, and there is no drainage of any kind, soapy water and other refuse are thrown on to the gardens, and the inhabitants complain of the offensive smell arising from the sodden ground. These matters have been brought before you, and Committees have met and reported on it to you; there are a good many difficulties in the way, but I hope the Council will see their way to carry out the scheme as soon as possible.

The Roche Water Supply is still in abeyance, and no steps appear to have been taken since my last Report. This matter is all the more urgent now as we have improved the drainage, and constructed an outfall. And I would also remind your Authority that you allowed four new houses to be connected with the main sewer, and have also consented to allow the Board School closets to be connected therewith. You will at once see that it is highly necessary to have a head of water for flushing purposes.

There has been a good deal of trouble at St. Stephens Churchtown about the soapy water—this to a certain extent they have discontinued, but I still think that if a supply of water by gravitation could be obtained the place ought to be drained. This place is increasing in population, and it would not be a costly undertaking.

CHURCHYARDS.

A new cemetery has been procured for Treverbyn, but there are still others which are in an unsatisfactory condition, and will have my attention during the present year. We still receive complaints about St. Dennis Churchyard. Biscovey and Tywardreath are under consideration.

DAIRIES AND COW-SHEDS.— A great number of Dairies and Cow-sheds have been visited, and the Sanitary surroundings have had attention, and we propose during the coming year to give them special attention. Whatever defects we may find, and cannot be remedied without our instructions, will be laid before you.

THE FACTORY ACT.—A great deal of our time has been taken up with the Factory and Workshop Act. It appears that every workshop, no matter how small it is, is included in it, and in some instances it has been a matter of great difficulty to deal with it. It means the closing of the workshop if proper sanitary conveniences are not procured. In some instances there is no proper place to put closets, unless we make them erect them in a corner of the workshop. You can imagine what a nuisance this will become where there is no water to flush or drain to carry away the fæces. The Factory Inspector has sent us several notices that we may see the work carried out. It is a comparatively easy matter to serve the notices, but it is a very difficult matter to have the work properly carried out when one has to contend with almost unsurmountable difficulties. Under the circumstances we have had the work carried out as far as practicable. Most of the places were clean and ventilated generally with large windows and open spaces. We have given notice to whitewash them regularly, and see that the floors are so constructed as to drain themselves. At various times during the past year surprise visits have been paid, and we have had very few complaints to make. During the coming year we intend giving workshops our special attention.

The bakehouses have also been visited, and every attention has been given to them, especially as regards their cleanliness and being kept wholesome. As far as I am aware there is no sleeping apartment over any bakehouse in the district.

There are several other sanitary matters that have had our attention, and a great amount of work has been accomplished without serving notices or bringing it before your Authority. Several closets or privies have been erected, notably at St. Dennis, where there were eleven houses without any sanitary conveniences.

At Castle Ruins, Fowey, you were acquainted with the difficulty we had, owing to a defective drain leaking on the highway, the agent of the property contending that it was in the sewer. After some time and difficulty it was traced to a private sewer, which the owner of the property at once had remedied. We also had considerable difficulty with pumps getting out of order, others choked, and some going dry. With such matters as these we do not trouble you.

I now append the several forms issued by the Local Government Board filled in showing the Birth and Death Rates in the different Districts, also showing the number of notifiable diseases, and where they occurred. These also state in another form in which the deaths from the several diseases are tabulated, and also show how many in each district. The compiling of these Tables took up considerable time, and great difficulty is connected therewith. It appears that the births are gradually declining, last year being only 25·9, whilst for the previous year it was 26·5, that for 1902 being the lowest for 23 years, whilst the rate for last year, 1903, is still lower, being only 25·9.

The Death Rate I am also pleased to say is the lowest that I have had to record since I have had the honour to be your Health Officer, last year being only 13·2, whilst for the previous year it was 14·2. This I think is highly satisfactory considering the changeable and wet year we experienced.

I now append as heretofore the Birth and Death Rate for the past twenty-four years.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1880	33·9	21·7
1881	32·9	18·7
1882	31·8	15·9
1883	31·8	18·2
1884	33·9	19·6
1885	32·6	18·6
1886	33·8	19·6
1887	29·7	19·5
1888	31·9	17·2
1889	36·6	17·6
1890	31·6	18 8
1891	32·7	19·4
1892	30·5	15·5
1893	29·8	21·4
1894	28·7	16·7
1895	31·4	18·9
1896	31·8	14·9

1897	31·3	16·7
1898	31·1	15·8
1899	30·6	18·6
1900	29·5	15·9
1901	28·04	14·7
1902	26·5	14·2
1903	25·9	13·2

I now lay before you the Birth and Death Rate for the separate Districts, and comparing them with the previous year you will find that Grampound is the only district where the births have increased. There has been a decrease in the deaths in each of the districts.

ST. AUSTELL.—

	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Under 1 year.
1900	32·6	16·5	3·9
1901	29·4	14·6	3·8
1902	26·8	14·6	3·7
1903	26·5	13·0	2·5

FOWEY.—

1900	29·1	15·3	2·3
1901	25·1	15·3	2·8
1902	25·9	13·8	3·3
1903	23·9	12·6	1·8

GRAMPOUND.—

1900	32·4	17·8	4·4
1901	30·5	15·5	3·3
1902	27·7	16·5	2·6
1903	29·5	14·2	3·1

MEVAGISSEY.—

1900	18·7	13·8	1·8
1901	25·5	12·6	·75
1902	25·0	10·3	1·7
1903	15·2	9·05	1·3

From the foregoing you will see that Mevagissey has got an extraordinarily low birth rate, and also the lowest death rate. Taking the deaths in children under

one year of age, Grampound is the highest and Mevagissey the lowest. The Birth and Death Rates in all the Districts were lower than in the previous year, except Grampound.

In concluding this Report, which I hope will meet with your approval, I take this opportunity of thanking you for your attention to the several matters brought before you, and also for the kindness and courtesy you have shewn me during the many years that I have been your Health Officer, and I also feel indebted to those who are associated with me, especially your Inspector, for the valuable assistance rendered me in the discharge of my onerous duties, and in the years to follow I hope the same friendly feeling will exist between us.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,,

WILLIAM MASON,

M.O.H.

JOHN STEPHENS, ESQ.

W. B. LUKE, PRINTER, ST. AUSTELL.